"Environmental impact assessment notification"

3301. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the list of the firms which have been granted Environmental Impact Assessement Notification during the last one and a half year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): Perhaps, the Hon'blc member is referring to the number of environmental clearances issued under the provisions of the notification on Environmental impact Assessment of Development projects dated the 27th January 1994. In the last one and a half years (March 1995—August 1996) 231 projects have been granted environmental clearance.

Favourable Trade Regime for Agricultural Sector

3302. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's agricultural policy has attempted to correct the earlier policy bias, favouring industry and thus bring about a more favourable trade regime for agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government's intervention through an Agricultural Price Policy shifts the terms of trade in favour of - agriculture, if so, the details thereof; and

(<i) whether a coalition between an industrial bourgcoise and a rural oligrachy influenced the terms of trade in favour of the farm sector through procuring price hikes; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The draft Agriculture Policy Resolution from 89.9 in 1990-91 to 98.9 in 1994-95.

Minimum Support price in respect of major commodities during the last five years is given in the Statement attached. which was discussed in Parliament in August, 1995, envisages that the Government would endeavour to create a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry. One of the objectives of the policy is to develop effective systems and bestow similar benefits on agriculture as exist in industry. However, care would be taken to ensure that agriculturists are not subjected to regulatory and tax collection machinery of the Government. Agriculture Policy is under finalisation keeping in view the suggestions made by members of Parliament and concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Government through its minimum Support Price Schemes has been helping the farmers to obtain adequate returns for farm produce. While fixing the Minimum Support Prices, the cost of production and incentives for farmers are taken into account as also the interests of the consumers. A positive agricultural price policy is being followed in the agricultural sector. This policy alongwith fiscal, monetary and trade policies influences the terms of trade for the agricultural sector. A favourable price climate due to liberalisation of domestic trade in agricultural commodities during the recent years has helped in improving the terms of trade for agriculture. The estimate of terms of trade between Agriculture and Industry shows that these have improved in favour of agriculture